

ECOSYSTEM STATUS INDICATORS***Benthic Communities and Non-target Fish Species*****Miscellaneous Species – Gulf of Alaska**

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Many other species of fish and invertebrates are encountered during the course of the biennial GOA survey. Many of these species are not sampled well by the gear or occur in areas that are not well sampled by the survey (hard, rough areas, mid-water etc.) and are therefore encountered in small numbers which may or may not reflect their true abundance in the GOA. A few general patterns of abundance can be discerned from the data. Abundance of jellyfish seems to be consistently higher in the central and eastern GOA than in the western GOA and 1990 seems to have been the year of highest abundance in these areas. Echinoderm abundances have generally been highest in the central GOA and their abundance appears to have generally increased over time in all areas. For the eelpouts (zoarcids) and poachers (agonids), definite abundance trends are difficult to discern as these species are rarely caught and the efficiency of the gear in capturing these fish is quite low due to their small size relative to the mesh size used on the biennial surveys (Figure 80).

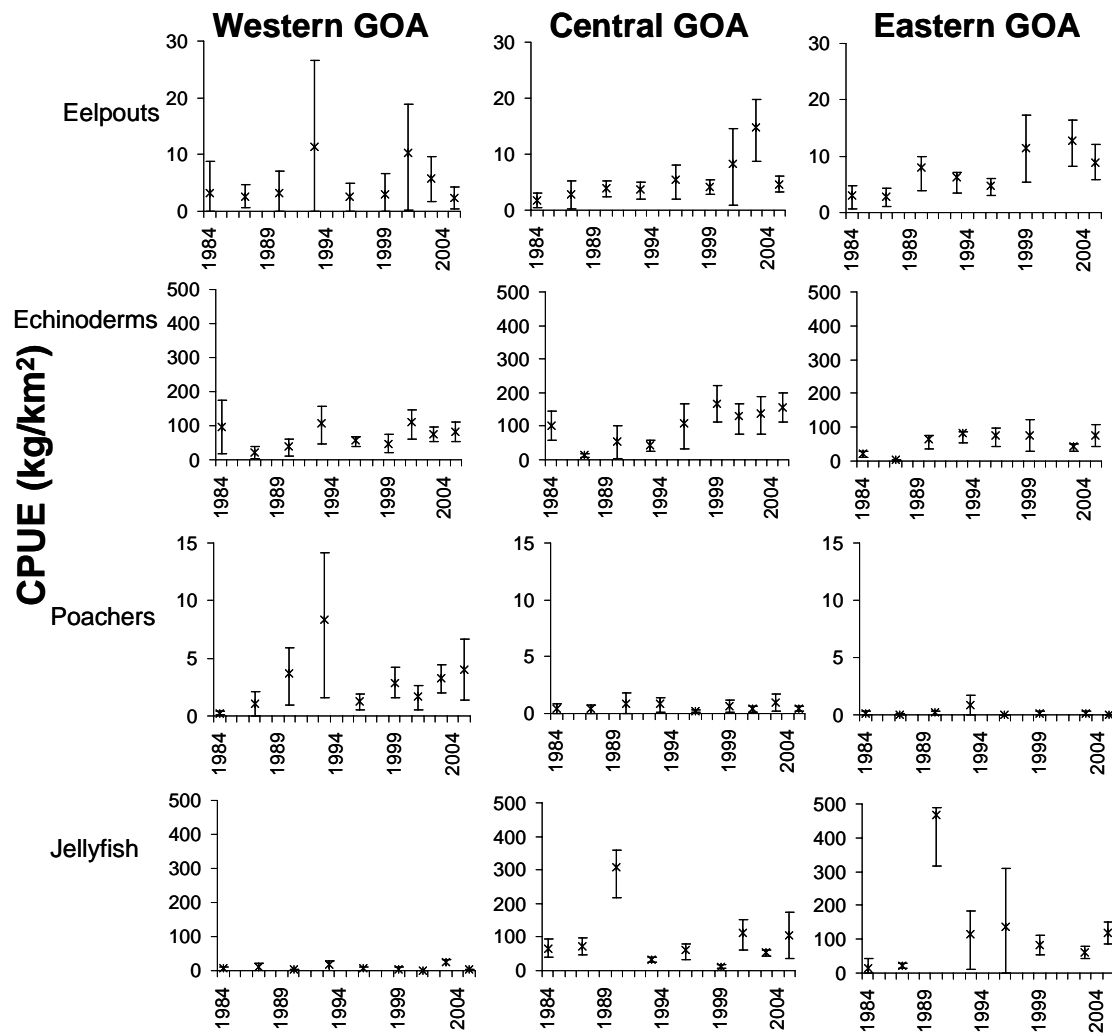


Figure 80. CPUE of miscellaneous species from the Gulf of Alaska biennial survey from 1984 through 2005. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.